SUBJECTS.

supply of water. There are about 400 tanks in his Taluk and these, he said, were being much neglected, as Government had ceased to do any maramat works. In the time of Dewan Mr. Ramiengar, Rs. 5,000 a year was spent on his Taluk. Gradually the amount was reduced to about Rs. 3,000 during 1070-1074, and thereafter nothing was being spent, not even a fraction of the income derived as tax. Before the introduction of the settlement, the land revenue was Rs. 49,000, but the new rates have brought in over a lakh of rupees. If one-tenth of this were spent, they would be better off.

Dewan's reply.—I understand that one of the biggest tanks (Plathankara tank) in the Taluk is under maintenance by the Public Works department. Government will enquire into the condition generally of the tanks in the Taluk and see if there are any of them, besides the one already mentioned, of sufficient importance to be taken up under regular maintenance by the Public Works department.

45. *Lanes and pathways to be kept in order, by owners of adjoining lands.*

Mr. P. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram Taluk) said that owners of lands should be compelled to repair and keep in order the lanes and other pathways adjoining their properties. Owing to the neglect of the Taluk authorities, the lanes and pathways were being encroached upon to the inconvenience of the public.

Dewan's reply.—If there are encroachments on particular lanes or pathways, and if the people of the localities bring them to notice, our officials will take action on them. But Government cannot undertake to go about all the pathways and lanes in the State and see if they are kept in a proper condition. The suggestion of the member is not quite practicable.

V. Revenue and Finance.

46. *Development of the salt industry.*

Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar of Eraniel (Member, Nominated) requested that facilities might be afforded for the development of the local manufacture of salt. He said that the Kudivaram rates obtaining at the Thamarakulom allam might also be introduced into the other allams.

Dewan's reply.—This question of developing the salt industry of the State has been continuing to receive the attention of Government for some time past. Government have been taking steps, but have not succeeded much, because people prefer Bombay salt.

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